Applicant herein amends the claims as reflected in the following scanable format. by amending claim 44, 47 - 49 and 50 (47 and 49 to be dependent upon claim 44; 50 to be dependent upon claim 49) and canceling claim 45. Claim 44 is amended to better distinguish the invention from the prior art.

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 - 10 and claims 11 -43 and 45 (cancelled)

44.(currently amended) A countermeasure system for vertically launching a decoy carrying cartridge trained only in azimuth comprising:

a base for supporting the system;

a launch tube having a central axis, the tube being disposed substantially vertically on the base, the tube having a zero twist longitudinal guide therein for effecting non-rotational, axial movement relative thereto;

means for rotating the launch tube about its axis for training the decoy in azimuth while disposed on the base;

a decoy cartridge receivable within the tube, having propulsion means for launching the cartridge longitudinally out of the tube along its axis;

the decoy cartridge having guide means cooperable with the tube longitudinal guide, the respective guide means of the tube and the cartridge being disposed for interaction to effect non-rotational axial movement throughout a substantial portion of the launch;

the decoy cartridge having a canard ~~means~~ disposed thereon for adjustment of the pitch of the cartridge during flight after launch from the tube.

45.(cancelled)

46. (previously added)The countermeasures system as claimed in claim 44 wherein the launch tube is housed in an outer tube affixed to the base

47. (currently amended) The countermeasures system as claimed in claim ~~4445~~ wherein the tube longitudinal guide and the cartridge guide means provide for rotation-free launch of the cartridge with respect to the launch tube.

48. (currently amended) The countermeasures system as claimed in claim 47 wherein the rotation of the launch tube sets the launch azimuth orientation and course of the decoy cartridge and the actuation of the canard ~~means~~ statically adjusts pitch angle and ballistic trajectory of the

decoy cartridge.

49. (currently amended) The countermeasures system as claimed in claim 44 includes a thruster disposed substantially perpendicular to the axis of the decoy cartridge for selective adjustment of the course of the cartridge after launch from the launch tube.

50. (currently amended) The countermeasures system as claimed in claim 4946 wherein the cartridge includes internal control means preprogrammed for activation of the thruster

51. (previously added)The countermeasures system as claimed in claim 44 wherein the cartridge includes internal control means preprogrammed for activation of the canard.

52. (previously added)The countermeasures system as claimed in claim 44 wherein the cartridge includes an onboard gyroscopic stabilization system to control at least on of roll, pitch and yaw of the cartridge after launch.

53 (previously added) The countermeasures system as claimed in claim 52 wherein the gyroscopic stabilization system is linked to a data base prior to launch of the cartridge whereby updated flight and decoy information is provided to the system.